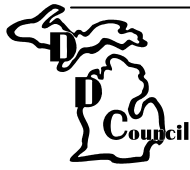


The



Monday Update

June, 2006

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www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil

Council expresses concern about Public Act 144 of 2006

On May 22, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill No. 838.

This new law, Public Act No. 144 of 2006, permits changes in the Michigan Department of Community Health's (DCH) Medicaid policies that could adversely affect some people with disabilities and people who care for them.

The law changes the state's Social Welfare Act to allow for flexibility in Medicaid coverage for 19- and 20-year-old people and caretaker relatives. Those 19- and 20-year-olds that qualify for Medicaid may be young people with disabilities.

The law permits DCH to obtain a waiver that might limit Medicaid benefits for these groups. Limiting these benefits would reduce DCH's budget expenses for Medicaid at a time when the department is looking for additional ways to save money.

The DD Council carefully considered SB 838 becoming a law and wrote a letter to the Governor expressing its concerns. The letter said in part:

SB 838 will permit, under the label of cost savings, possible elimination of Medicaid coverage for people with disabilities, parents, seniors and otherwise uninsured residents. People with disabilities who are not on Supplemental Security Income could suffer immeasurably. This potential for damage to people's lives is of great concern to the Council.

The DD Council has serious reservations about SB 838. If a waiver were obtained by DCH from the federal government, enrollment in Medicaid for 19- and 20-year-olds could be frozen, and it would simply end for eligible caretakers. The federal government must approve changes such as these because it provides most of the Medicaid money.

Eligible caretakers are relatives – grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. – who care for children and whose income is low enough to qualify for Medicaid. There are about 40,000 people in Michigan who are eligible as caretaker relatives.

It is possible that some of the people who might be affected by the new law could be eligible for the new Michigan First Health Insurance Program. However, there might be higher co-pays and reduced benefits offered.

While SB 838 is now Public Act 144, it is not too late to contact your state senator and representative and express your views on the new law. This will give your legislators input on concerns of people with disabilities in this state, and make them aware of your interest in their work and the legal and political issues that affect your life.

New machine makes voting possible for more people with disabilities

A new voting machine for people with disabilities will be in every polling location for the Aug. 8 primary, says Terri Lynn Land, Michigan's Secretary of State (SOS).

The machine program was announced May 2 and the announcement is available on the SOS website, www.michigan.gov/sos.

The new machines, called AutoMARK, look like a fax machine and have a large, flip-up screen.

The AutoMARK will provide voters with disabilities with a variety of ballot-casting options. According to the web site, "voters may cast their votes without assistance using the screen, Braille keypad or foot pedal. They may also use magnification and contrast features on the screen, headphones with an audio function, a wand or personal sip/puff tube to assist in marking the ballot. When the ballot is completed, it is scanned and is stored with all other ballots. Voters maintain the privacy of their ballot throughout the process."

The machines are part of an effort to convert all of the state's voting machines to the same system. AutoMARK does not require election workers to merge its votes with the standard system at the polling place. Both produce a ballot that can be read and recorded by the same electronic machine.

At least AutoMARK will be in each Michigan polling place. The SOS web site quotes Secretary Land, "We are at the beginning of a new era in voting for people with disabilities. This technology is intended to remove obstacles to voting for members of Michigan's disability community and to ensure they are given the same opportunity for access and participation as other voters on Election Day."

The new machines' costs are covered under the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

Resource One is a light for change in Michigan's north country

It is no secret that an organization devoted to changing systems for people with disabilities may work best if it is owned and operated by people with disabilities.

Perhaps one of the best recent examples of this belief is Resource One, a dynamic, five-year- old non-profit corporation whose base of operations is centered in the Kalkaska-Charlevoix region. Membership is drawn from eight northern counties but the organization has statewide interests. This group works for system change through a series of grants and a lot of hard work.

Resource One currently operates two DD Council grants, Health Care Coordination, and Transportation Voucher Pilot project. It was formally incorporated as a non-profit corporation supporting people with disabilities in January, 2001. Resource One was recently given 501(c)(3) tax status. This opens many doors for the group, including receiving financial contributions that are tax deductible for the donors.

Few consumers leading

When the group of people with disabilities who formed Resource One first got together, one major concern that prompted discussion was that many health, human service and disability organizations rarely placed consumers at the head table. In fact, it was unusual to find a organization that even tried to identify its members who were also people with disabilities.

The people in the new Resource One did identify its membership – at least 90 percent were, and are, people with disabilities - and formed a corporation. As with many corporations, Resource One is managed by a five-member board of directors. The board is made up of:

Kay McKay, chairperson, Elk Rapids

Wendy Lippens, vice-chair, Gaylord

Barbara Dmochowski, treasurer, Bellaire

Ian Engle, secretary, formerly of Levering, now East Lansing

Susan Jones, director, Harbor Springs

Resource One was formed to serve the needs and goals of its members, most of whom are people with disabilities. In turn, the group's projects and activities also serve non-members across the north who have disabilities or are senior citizens. Members "identify, participate in, use and evaluate the services are at the center of the (organization) and whose quality of life is the focus of the organization," states a Resource One information sheet.

Keeping on track important

One of the first items of business when Resource One was formed was to develop a position statement: "Choice and Opportunities to Achieve through Self-Determination." Members

agree this statement was important in keeping the group on track as plans were formed and still provides focus for present and future projects.

Members form teams to tackle projects. With more people on the job, the project can take place across the vast geographic region known as the Northern Lower Peninsula. Teams are formed and dissolved as project and activity needs require.

Resource One members are expected to join the teams and leadership roles are encouraged. Most members serving on teams agree that working together toward common goals helps develop relationships and skills for use outside the organization, in everyday life. This, according to the group's information paper, "improves the quality of life, both of the team members, and those receiving" the results of the project or activity.

The organization started its team activity with its seven members on the Grassroots Outreach grant project, sponsored by the DD Council several years ago. The project's goal was to expand membership and get people involved in self-advocacy.

As a result of Grassroots Outreach, Resource One membership grew from seven to 42. Membership spread across 16 communities in nine counties. In this successful project, people with disabilities directly managed over \$10,000 in competitive funding, providing a variety of outreach activities they believed would be successful in connecting with other people with disabilities.

From Grassroots Outreach came the Outreach Team. The Resource One information sheet says the Outreach Team's ongoing focus is reaching out to members, others with disabilities, and those who love and care about them."

The team concept is at the heart of the two DD Council grants Resource One is presently working on.

Developing and comparing

The Health Care Coordination Team is evaluating the quality of several Council-sponsored health care coordination projects in Michigan. Working with the grantees, the team will develop data that helps each project improve its operation. The data will also allow the Council to compare effects of different ways of approaching health care coordination.

The Transportation Voucher Pilot Program generated a Resource One team to coordinate a variety of public and private agency transportation services across Antrim and Kalkaska Counties. The project uses a voucher system to help people reimburse families, friends, and others for transportation where none is regularly available. The grant permitted Resource One to hire staff to coordinate the voucher program. Once the three-year grant has run its course, Resource One members expect to “take what is learned and share the opportunity to coordinate transportation resources in other communities across Northern Michigan...”

The group was awarded two grants from the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. One included an economic development study in Kalkaska that included interviewing local businesses on development opportunities. Another provided personal financial management skill training and resources.

Why is Resource One so successful in its work? Kay McKay, board chairperson, says “one reason for our success is that Resource One is completely operated by consumers. Resource One teaches teamwork – we’re learning to work together - and skills that can be used in other areas, other parts of our lives. We are also learning to be more independent.”

Nothing beats personal experience

Dave Branding, a principle evaluator on the Health Care Coordination Evaluation Team, has an idea: “Resource One is an organization in which people with disabilities – those who know from a collective lifetime of personal experiences the very real challenges to getting the supports they need to live self-determined lives – are both empowered and enabled to deliver critical services that other organizations have not.”

Joanne Rackow, past board chairperson and project coordinator for the Transportation Voucher Pilot Program, says “one big reason for the group’s success is strong leadership. Also, there is a philosophy – ‘if you want to get it done, do it yourself’” - that gives the teams their independence and drive to accomplish their goals. Also, the group has always been careful not to compete with other advocacy organizations and programs in the area. “Instead, we work to compliment their work,” Rackow says.

For more information on Resource One, please call Joanne Rackow at 231-549-2485 evenings, or email Dave Branding at resourceone@torchlake.com.

Grant work ties land use to quality of life for people with disabilities

A one-year grant project from the DD Council to UCP Michigan is demonstrating the link between planning for constructive land use and the needs of people with disabilities. Good planning and constructive management of Michigan land can affect many areas of the lives of people with disabilities. The grant is titled Land Use and Disability.

Land use studies examine the relationships between land, air and water and how they are used separately and together. Today, new communities and suburbs are being overdeveloped without regard for the future of the land and the residents who live on it.

Old cities lose services

At the same time, older cities are decaying from within and people living in them are finding services are disappearing. That is because the services that affect all of our lives are being shifted to the high growth areas in the suburbs, along with many of the jobs.

In a recent report from UCP Michigan on the project's findings, it is clear that until a land use strategy is developed, there will be shortfalls in life areas such as transportation and housing.

The good news is that people with disabilities and land use advocates have many of the same goals, although their reasons may be different. As the UCP Michigan report states, "Because they want the same things, it makes sense for people with disabilities and land use advocates to work together. There is strength in numbers."

The UCP report notes that transportation is a major component of wise land use. Buses and para-transit services are very important to people with disabilities. It is the way a person may get to the doctor, or a job, or shopping, or the movie theater. Since it is so important, "disability advocates try to get city and state and national leaders to create more public transportation."

Planners and environmentalists

UCP Michigan collaborated with the Michigan Land Use Institute on the project. Where highways and buses go is a good example of the things that land use planners think about. Another group

that joins disability advocates and land use planners is environmentalists.

They are concerned with air, land, and water: are they being damaged by too many roads and pollution? Environmentalists also want more public transportation because it reduces the need for more cars, pollution and a desire to building even more roads.

Good transportation is only one thing that helps people with disabilities with their independence, but ties in with the need to find employment. That requires reliable transportation. Many jobs are in suburbs, where it is more expensive to live.

Then there is housing. What are some of the things people with disabilities want when they think about housing?

- Accessible
- Affordable
- Accessible routes (curb cuts, sidewalks)
- Near a bus line
- Near jobs
- Close to doctors, stores
- Safety

Another issue is home help. How does an aide get to your house without transportation?

Then there is good health. Poor land use is not a contributor. Jobs, the doctor, and the grocery stores may have moved out of the city near huge, new malls only to contribute to the sprawl on what may have once been farmland. Moving around any town may be more difficult if city planners forgot curb cuts.

Finally, putting it together

Under the heading Putting it all together, the UCP Michigan report says, “If people with disabilities work for walkable, rollable, liveable neighborhoods, they will get the neighborhoods they need and help their communities, too. If people with disabilities work to obtain affordable housing, in the cities not the suburbs, with accessible routes, they will get what they need, and help their communities, too.”

This also applies to public transit and housing.

For more information on land use and planning for people with disabilities, contact UCP Michigan at 517-203-1200.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Multicultural Committee

April 10, 2006

Present:

Sophie Baker; Mae Golden (phone); Pat McSherry; Terrie Hylton (chair); Mitzi Allen; Angela Zamora; Pam Hall; Tracy Vincent; Terry Hunt and Jacqui Day.

Call to Order: by Chairperson Hylton at 1:10 p.m.

March, 2006's meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

This month's agenda reviewed and approved.

Introductions: Welcome to guest Tracy Vincent from the Family Support Work Group.

Old Business:

A. Rick Van Horn was not in attendance and could not report on discussions with the Arc Michigan about providing computer space for a Committee exclusive web site.

B. Multicultural Resources – Hylton emphasized the need for a good system of resources, especially with the presence of the diversity coordinators. Several members turned in resources for the list. Hylton encouraged anyone who has resources in mind to send them to Mitzi Allen at the DD Council. Allen, in turn, will send to members the resource list for placing in their handbooks.

Hylton discussed the products available from the company from whom she had purchased diversity pins several years ago. The company also sells magnets, key chains and such.

C. Allen reported that the Committee's grant proposal will become a Request for Proposals (RFPs) and issued early in May. The RFP for the grant, Strengthening Relationships for Diversity, will be available for viewing on the Council's web site.

D. Grant collaboration with the Family Support Work Group: Tracy Vincent said Committee member Pam Hall gets credit for the idea for the grant titled Family and Individuals Planning Their Future. Vincent said the purpose of the project is to ensure that caregivers and people with disabilities have the resources and support they need to plan for the future of a family member with a developmental disability when they no longer can provide the care. The first year of the project is to gather resources, identify

key stakeholders and to create a toolkit. The second year is to hold forums in the identified six areas of the state.

E. RICC diversity coordinator training: Hylton and Committee looking at August 8th for repeating the training session for those who did not attend the Feb. 1 session. A follow-up session will be held at the RICC Leadership Development Conference in September. At that conference, Allen said, the Committee is scheduled for a three-hour breakout session in which to do the training. Hylton expects attending coordinators to talk about what they have done since attending the first training session, and how the Committee can support them in the future.

Allen reported that a letter will be sent to diversity coordinators advising them that the Committee is a resource as they work on the outreach portions of their respective RICC's work plan. Hylton suggested that the letter also solicit resources in the coordinators' communities – name, contact person, etc. The letter will announce the August training date. It will ask for any help/suggestions and invite them to join meetings.

Allen reported that the Council's third annual Meeting/Family Gathering will again be held at Hawk Island Park in Lansing. Date is July 11. Is that an opportunity for the Committee to set up an information booth? There is no charge...just need people to man the booth. Zamora expects to have a Protection & Advocacy Services table at the gathering.

The Committee shared thoughts on the problems of targeting minorities for mistreatment and stereotyping by public authorities. What does a local government really mean when it says it embraces diversity without actually making any changes or reflecting the community's makeup? The attributes of cultural competency were also discussed.

New Business

A. Civil Rights Summit: Allen reported on the March 27 Detroit summit hosted by Wayne State and convened by the Department of Civil Rights. Allen said the gathering was a success.

Hall reported on a Department of Community Health diversity meeting. Also discussed was the RICCs role in opposing the anti-affirmative action proposal that will appear on the November ballot. Hunt was not aware of what individual RICCs were doing regarding that proposals. Zamora felt RICCs should be informed about the proposal. Should the Committee provided an information sheet at the September RICC conference on this subject? Perhaps an organization could set up a table at the conference to dispense information.

Zamora discussed related activities by the affirmative action/integration/immigrant rights group By Any Means Necessary (BAMN). Information on the group was distributed.

B. The Committee noted the selection of Maria Cebreco of General Motors as Miss Wheelchair Michigan for 2006. Hylton said Cebreco is interested in having a role in Committee activities.

Updates and Announcements

Allen will represent the Committee at an advocates summit meeting (DD Council and Michigan Rehabilitation Council) on April 18.

Allen reviewed Diversity Focus article assignments. Assignments are the same as listed in the Committee's March meeting minutes:

May - Leadership – Golden – due to Allen April 14

July - Family Support – McSherry – due to Allen June 16
September - Self-Determination – Linderman – due to Allen Aug.
11
October - Health – Zamora/Day – due to Allen Sept. 15, and
November – General – Hylton – due to Allen Oct. 13

Hylton discussed autism spectrum disorders and top 10 challenges for people with the disorders. A session focusing on employment with Gail Hawkins will be held May 3, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Oakland Schools, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford. Cost is \$5.00. Call 248-209-2504 for information.

Adjourned.

Education Work Group

April 5, 2006

Attendance: Jane Spitzley, Karen Massaro-Mundt, Carolyn Das,
Mark McWilliams, Barb Leroy, Glenn Ashley
Phone: Andre Robinson, Jane Reagan, Lauri Stein

- 1.) Jane R moved to approve the February 21, 2006 minutes.
Andre seconded, and the motion carried.
- 2.) Announcements - None
- 3.) Education Summit and Universal Education Policy Advocacy
- **Review of March 31 mini-summit**
Reviews by attendees were positive. The auditorium layout was not good for discussion. A traveling microphone was needed. Maps are needed, including the time it takes to go west of Lansing.

2 parents indicated they would be willing to take on specific responsibilities for the event.

- Next Steps

Carolyn needs to go through the items for the suggestions for planning for the Summit for the fall, and move forward on the plan.

Question that needs to be addressed is whether to make the Summit just disability, or include others who support us. Clearly we need the wider coalition in order to succeed; the question is timing.

We don't want to just be part of a coalition, we need to be prepared to lead it, have our act together first. That is why we need the Summit just disability.

The Summit needs to address 1) how to connect with other groups to build support of allies and identify common interests and 2) how we organize for ongoing actions.

Maybe ask attendees to bring names of allies. Or have a track that includes some of the allies.

We could add 4 or 5 strategically selected people from non-disability groups without having to redo the purpose or plan. We are not clear on specific names. We would want to ask Vendella and Liz if they have names.

We should start trying to find those people and start talking with them now.

The disability community, perhaps even the people who attended, is divided on the question of UE.

An additional track could be research and dissemination, relationship of inclusion to economic development.

The consensus of the work group is to have the Summit disability focused, leaving open the possibility that 3-5 strategically selected people from non-disability groups might be invited.

We need to get subject matter experts and presenters locked in now.

A quality invitation is important. Suggestion of having Vendella send out the letter of invitation to the Summit. Follow-up with individuals is also essential.

4.) Recommendation for Council 2007-2011 plan.

Carolyn moved to approve the plan recommendation for Minority Family Support to Improve Educational Outcomes, with the changes made during the meeting. Barb seconded, and the motion carried.

5.) Report on presentations made at the March 14 DD Council Meeting

Feedback received from Council members after the meeting was very good.

We did an excellent job of helping people with cognitive disabilities participate in the meeting. Participation and discussion on next steps for was very active. The WG commended Glenn for the job he did in preparing that presentation.

Being scheduled the same day as an important issue at the State Board of Education was a problem for the presenters. The Council meeting date needs to be changed if the Council is serious about educational advocacy. Organizations that have the conflict can write a letter to the Council Chairperson if other efforts fail to get different dates beginning in October.

6.) Updates

- State Board of Education

The seclusion and restraint policy is scheduled for a vote on May 9. MPAS has been asked to provide input on the policy. The policy is being written for all students, not just special education. The option of banning seclusion entirely is also being considered. The policy is on the Department Web site. Mark will send the link to Glenn so he can send it out.

High School graduation standards are in the legislature. The implementation of the standards is likely to affect students in special education. Perceptions and myths, such as special ed students can meet the requirements need to be addressed. (Less than 20% of special ed students have cognitive impairments.) With accommodations, many students can meet the academic requirements.

Teaching standards may come up again, which has provisions for differentiated instruction.

- Detroit Public Schools issues

There have been 3-5 people per session for advocacy training. Left-over manuals will be sent to the 115 families in the Detroit 360 project.

- Other education issues

Proposed regulations for IDEIA are still in Washington. They may come out this summer. Comments were submitted in September.

State parent support grant RFP is in the field, with proposals due May 10.

On July 1, the state is shifting from the current system of hearings to a one-tier system with administrative law judges. The state is currently advertising for hearing officers.

7.) Future meeting dates

Jane R moved that future meetings be held the fourth Wednesday, beginning in May. Carolyn seconded, and the motion carried.

Meetings will continue to be from 10:00 am to noon at the DD Council office.

Today's meeting replaced the April 18 meeting, so that meeting is cancelled.

Future meetings will be:
May 24
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 27
October 25
November 22
December – no meeting date

Health Issues Work Group

April 18, 2006

Members present:

Mary Marin, Karen Massaro-Mundt (phone), Jaqui Day and Paul Shaheen

Guests present: Bonnie Sumbler (Message Makers), Linda Potter (UCP Michigan) and Dr. Sheila Semlers DCH Oral Health Coordinator)

Staff present: Terry Hunt, Tandy Bidinger and Dee Florence

In the absence of chairperson Theresa Arini, Karen volunteered to chair the meeting.

Members introduced themselves.

Members reviewed the minutes and made no changes.

Linda distributed information and reviewed potential individuals for interview in the Faces of Medicaid Project. Members discussed

these candidates and other options to increase geographic diversity. Bonnie suggested we begin by taping candidates 1-5. In the meantime, Linda will continue to look for a family that has no disability, but qualifies for Medicaid because of poverty. After that, we can consider whether we need other candidates.

1. Family – one parent works, other stays home with child with disability; all get Medicaid or child gets Medicaid.
 - We had a family from Saginaw that wanted to do it, but the dad is now seriously ill, so they can't do it. Now we have a family from Alanson, which is north, but they are willing to come down. We found two other families, but in one both parents get employer-provided health benefits, and only the child is on Medicaid. And the other family just got off of Medicaid because they make too much, and has no insurance for any of the 6 of them [mom, dad, 4 kids]. So we went with the following family: The biggest difference is that there's no dad, so this family is not that different than #6, below. Mom is single mom, two kids, one with disability, one without. The one with gets Medicaid/CSHCS, the other gets Healthy kids. Mom works as a direct care worker at a nursing home, has no insurance. They are very willing to drive down.
2. Recipient with disabilities works now and has employer-provide insurance benefits, but used Medicaid during period was going to school [one of Marlene's people]
 - We didn't completely get this, but we got a great person: He was in an auto accident and now uses a wheelchair. He was an auto mechanic before his accident, and now has his own business and employs several people, two of them with disabilities. He used Medicaid in rehab, but has no insurance now [although he thinks he might still be eligible for Medicaid], nor do

his employees. He is near Saginaw, is willing to travel here.

3. Person with developmental disabilities who gets Medicaid services for medical care and through CMH [similar to many of those people in the videos]
 - The plan is to use a young man with a developmental disability from the Detroit area who gets Medicaid services for health care and through CMH. He lives in his own apartment and is looking for a job.
4. Senior – who worked all his/her life, now gets SSDI/SSI and Medicaid.
 - We found an elderly woman in Lansing.
5. Person with disability who goes into nursing home for services, which Medicaid paid for, then works hard to get out and into Medicaid MIChoice program: Gets SSI, Medicaid pays for aides, as well as the typical medical stuff.
 - We had a number of choices for this. We chose for now a man from Detroit area, who was in nursing home, now in his own apartment in Southfield, where he receives community based supports and services funded by Medicaid. We're checking, though, to be sure it's Medicaid and not VA that pays for his in-home supports, as he is a vet – we've left messages, no answer yet. If it VA, we have other people for this category. He is the one whose travel might be expensive – we're asking him about that too.
6. Single mom, 2 kids, was on TANF; got Medicaid, child care and training, works now but gets no insurance for her; kids on Healthy Kids or whatever.
 - We have two choices for this, and are going for now with a Lansing family that consists of a mom and two boys. The oldest son is a teenager with autism who receives SSI/Medicaid. Mom and the younger son, age 7, receive Medicaid along with cash assistance. The referral source thinks she was working until she

had her second child and then was unable to find appropriate child care for both kids. The other family lives in Flint; mom is supposed to be a completely delightful person. She is a working mom; has 3 kids, twin girls age 3 and a son age 2. One of the girls gets SSI and has a disability.

7. Medical team to illustrate the point that Medicaid contributes to the economy
 - Working on this one: Dr. David Alexander, referral of Paul Shaheen.

Mary said the PPP program could pay mileage/travel expense and a \$50 stipend (per family unit).

Members discussed the candidate forums. Paul suggested the council develop a health policy and distribute this to the statewide candidates. He also reported that U of M (Melissa Dwyer) is partnering with various organizations, including MCMCH, to host a candidates forum (Governor, AG, Secretary of State, US senate) which will be broadcast on public radio.

May 3 MCMCH is having its annual meeting at the capital.

The HIWG is addressing each of its work plan strategies: Care Coordination Project (Strategy 1) Faces of Medicaid Project (Strategies 2 and 3) Candidates' forum (Strategies 2 and 3), Potential Oral Health Project (Strategies 2 and 3).

Sheila described the Oral Health Coalition (OHC) as a resource. Members concurred the DD Council/HIWG needs to participate in the OHC (Jaqui Day volunteered to attend meetings and report back to the work group.) Work with group to collect data that exists at this time about barriers.

Sheila summarized her proposal to gather data and develop a plan. Linda expressed concern that a community forum may yield good community data, but it may not be statistically valid. Sheila will attempt to collect national data which can be extrapolated to Michigan. Council's objective with this initiative would be to document unmet/undermet need and develop a plan of action and to catalyze advocacy to address these issues.

Options/oral health resources discussed include:

- survey providers (e.g. dentists, Mott Children's Hospital)
- develop baseline about barriers as identified by consumers
- survey DLEG about consumers who can't get jobs.

Dan Briskie, ph. 810.768.7585 - Mott Children's Health Center could be a resource.

Members discussed increasing consumer leverage to rate services and concurred that RoAnne needs to be part of this discussion.

RoAnne may know of African American individuals who might be interested in participating.

Members discussed incentives to attract increased consumer/minority involvement - food, travel support, stipends.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: May 16, 1:30pm

Transportation Work Group

April 13, 2006

PRESENT:

Diane Kempen, Kathy Janego, Paul Miller, Pam Hall, Bud Beebe, Carol Wegher, Doug Anderson, JoAnn Lucas

VIA PHONE:

Flint: Mae Golden, Gordon Siwula, David Tyler, Tiffany McIntire, Charlotte Lizotte, and Carl Fenner

Eastern UP: Jodi Tippet, Charlene Klip, Robert Landreville, John Bronicheski, and Marion Albrough

Wayne: Hank Johnson, Andre Robinson, Ryan Klotz

Welcome and Introductions

Carol Wegher moved that the minutes be accepted as written.
Paul Miller seconded.

New Business

- a. ***Detroit Fare Increase:*** The City of Detroit is considering raising disability fares from no fare to 75¢ one way, (does not include transfers). Seniors would continue to ride free of charge.
- b. ***SAFETEA-LU:*** Doug Anderson discussed SAFETEA-LU (federal transportation legislation) and shared the handout he received from a recent conference he attended about new projects and funds.
- c. ***Budget Hearings*** - State
There is federal money available but needs state matching dollars. So far the state has only promised funds for capital but not operating funds. The committee decided to write a letter to the MDOT Director encouraging them to encourage

Governor Granholm to provide matching state funds for transportation.

Old Business

L.A.C: The Capitol Area RICC planned to attend the Lansing LAC meeting to request holiday service. But the LAC meeting was cancelled due to construction. The RICC plans to attend the next LAC meeting to make the request. They will report back to the TWG.

Summer “Traveling Meeting”

This year, it is suggested that the TWG traveling meeting again be held in the UP. Terry Hunt recommended that the TWG meeting be in conjunction with a RICC regional meeting. Several dates were discussed but no definite date has been determined.

Revised Plan Language (New Project Proposals)

The change to the plan language was discussed. It was then determined that Kathy Janego would make the brokerage presentation and Mae Golden would make the mileage presentations at the RICC retreat in May.

Other

MARO Conference: A discussion will take place after the TWG meeting to determine exactly what material the committee wanted to submit to the MARO conference. Kathy Janego, Diane Kempen, and Tandy Bidinger will be the presenters.

Success Stories

Genesee: Dave Tyler update- MTA wrote up an incident report. Now the driver has been retaliating against Dave. This has been reported and the LAC is going to deal with the driver. The TWG recommended that the Genesee RICC request that the LAC require the driver to go through sensitivity training, if he isn't fired.

Livingston:

Livingston Co. is growing at an extremely fast rate and will be approaching the larger city status soon. When this happens the amount of federal funding the county receives for transportation will change, resulting in the county having to contribute a larger percentage of funds to the program. The local newspaper ran a front-page article containing several negative quotes from public officials concerning the extra funds the county will have to put in to public transportation. This has caused an outrage in the community and has gotten individuals fired up to take action to ensure the quality of public transportation remains high.

Meeting was adjourned at noon.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

of the

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council

Pursuant to the requirements of the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 you are hereby notified of a public hearing of the draft of the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council's Five-Year Strategic State Plan for 2007 - 2011.

DATE: Thursday, June 29, 2006

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council office
1033 South Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI

If you need accommodations, please contact the Council office by June 15, 2006.

For directions to 1033 South Washington in Lansing, call 517-334-6123 or e-mail sharp@michigan.gov.